Poaching of wild animals/endangered species

1242. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received a number of complaints in regard to disapprearance/pocahing of wild animals/endangered species such as blackbugs, leopards and tigers in certain States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the factors attributed thereto;

(c) the number of cases booked and the action taken by Government against the poachers, State-wise, and the steps initiated to prevent such recurrence in future;

(d) whether the employees of Forest Department are also reported to be responsible for the poaching; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken agaisnt them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Ministry has received only one report of disappreance of wild animal from its natural habitat i.e., of tiger from the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan. Poaching, habitat destruction due to human interfence, inadequate frontline staff for wildlife protection are some of the factors responsible for such disappearance. As regard poaching of wild animals, Ministry have been receiving reports from different states from time to time. However, there is no sudden increase in the number of incidents. State wise cases of poaching in respect of import wild animals as per information available in the Ministry are at Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) As informed by the State Governments, the number of cases booked under the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, during the last three years are at Statement II (*See* below). The steps taken to prevent such incidents are as follows:

Steps taken at National level:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals agaisnt hunting

and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more streingent. The punishments in cases of offences have been enhanced. The Act also provides for forefeiture of any equipment, vehicle of weapon that are used for committing wildlife offences.

(iii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(iv) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-Regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

(v) Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for protection of wildlife and their habitats under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, *viz.*, Development of National Parks & sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant.

(vi) India has bilateral agreements with Nepal and China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.

(vii) 100% Central Assistance is provided for deploying anti-poaching strike squads in Tiger Reserves, apart from expenditure relating to research, veterinary, monitoring and evaluation, compensation to the legal heir of staff/person killed while performing duty, and for monitoring of tiger population.

Steps taken at State level:

(i) The field staff have been alerted to be on the look for any poaching activity in their jurisdiction.

(ii) Wide publicity is given on provisions of Wildlife (protection) Act, 1972 against poaching.

(iii) Regular patrolling is organised by field officers.

(iv) Strict vigil is maintained through effective communication system.

(d) There are no reports of forest officials being responsible for poaching.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement-I

State-wise details of poaching of wild animals/endangered species

Sl. No.	Name of State	Tiger				Leopared				Elephant			
		2002	2003	2004	Total	2002	2003	2004	Total	2002	2003	2004	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—	5	3	4	**12**	1	—	—	**1**
2.	Assam	9	2	1	**12**	—	—	2	**2**	26	23	4	**53**
3.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	**1**	—	—	—	—
4.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	**7**
5.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	**2**	—	—	—	—
6.	Karnataka	4	1	—	**5**	4	1	—	**5**	9	3	2	**14**
7.	Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	**3**	9	11	—	—
8.	Maharshtra	12	5	—	**17**	6	—	9	**15**	—	—	—	—
9.	Madhya Pradesh	2	1	—	**3**	1	7	—	**8**	—	—	—	—
10.	Rajasthan	1	—	—	**1**	3	—		**4**	—	—	—	—
11.	Tamil Nadu	—	1	—	**1**	4	3	—	**7**	8	2	—	**10**
12.	Uttaranchal	4	2	—	**6**	14	2	4	**20**	16	—	—	**16**
13.	Uttar Pradesh	4	1	—	**5**	—	—	1	**1**	—	3	—	**3**
14.	West Bengal	1	2	—	**3**	1	4	4	**9**	6	2	1	**9**
15.	Chhattisgarh	—	3	—	**3**	—	—	1	**1**	—	—	—	—
16.	Gujarat	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	**1**	—	—	—	—
17.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	**2**	—	8	7	**15**
18.	Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	**3**	15	15	—	**30**
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	**1**	2	—	—	**2**
20.	Bihar	1	1	—	**2**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	—	—	**1**								
	TOTAL	38	19	1	58	41	24	33	98	98	68	14	160

Statement-II

Statewise details of cases booked under wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 during the last three years

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Total No. of cases booked under the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 during 2003, 2004 & 2005
1.	Andhra Pradesh	117
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4
3.	Assam	31
4.	Chhattisgarh	36
5.	Goa	47
6.	Gujarat	110
7.	Haryana	1871
8.	Himachal Pradesh	23
9.	Jharkhand	234
10.	Karnataka	1749
11.	Kerala	208
12.	Madhya Pradesh	517
13.	Maharshatra	1296
14.	Manipur	2
15.	Meghalaya	Nil
16.	Mizoram	16
17.	Nagland	Nil
18.	Orissa	451
19.	Rajasthan	287
20.	Sikkim	Nil
21.	Tamil Nadu	Nil
22.	Uttaranchal	15
23.	West Bengal	361
24.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	26
25.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	10
26.	Chandigarh	Nil
27.	NCT of Delhi	60
28.	Lakshadweep	Nil
29.	Pondicherry	Nil